

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 291445Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1419

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 7970

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, KE, UG, TU, TZ

SUBJECT: GOK MOD OFFICIAL ON UK MUNITIONS AIRLIFT TO KENYA

REF: (A) LONDON 11771 (NOTAL), (B) NAIROBI 7790 (NOTAL)

DEFENSE MINISTRY PERMSEC KIEREINI TOLD DCM JULY 29 THAT OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCES FOR AIRLIFT FROM UK OF BADLY NEEDED MUNITIONS TO KENYA HAVE STILL NOT BEEN ARRANGED. ALTHOUGH BRITISH RESUBMITTED REQUEST TO TURKEY SHOWING DESTINATION AS BAHRAIN AIRFIELD, TURKS HAVE NOT AS YET RESPONDED AND KIEREINI DOUBTS FAVORABLE REPLY WILL BE FORTHCOMING. HE SAID ALTERNATE ROUTE OUTLINED REF A VIA SIERRA LEONE, ASCENSION ISLAND, ZAIRE, AND TANZANIA ALSO APPEARS INFEASIBLE AS "HIGHLY DISCREET SOUNDINGS" TAKEN LAST NIGHT WITH TANZANIANS INDICATED THAT TANZANIA APPROVAL OF OFFICIAL REQUEST WOULD BE UNLIKELY. KIEREINI, THEREFORE, IS FLYING TO LONDON TONIGHT TO CONSULT WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS ON OTHER POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES. KIEREINI SAID GOK STILL FEELS IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THESE MUNITIONS BE OBTAINED WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS AS MILITARY ATTACK ON KENYA BY UGANDA REMAINS VERY REAL POSSIBILITY.

MARSHALL

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Message Attributes

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